



Region 2 Headquarters
3201 Spurgin Road
Missoula, MT 59804
Phone 406-542-5500

July 24, 2020

Dear Interested Citizen:

Enclosed you will find for your review the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for a Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) proposal to conduct forested habitat restoration treatments on approximately 100 acres of forest land within its approximately 120-acre Mount Jumbo Wildlife Management Area (MJWMA), northwest of Missoula in Missoula County. The objectives of the proposed treatments are to: 1) increase forage potential on elk and deer winter range, 2) promote stand conditions that would allow fire to burn at low-severity appropriate for the habitat type, and 3) reduce fuel loading in the wildland urban interface. The treatments would involve the removal of conifer trees (both merchantable and sub-merchantable) through a combination of mechanical and non-mechanical treatments. The main purpose of this project is to improve wildlife habitat; this project would not be proposed if not for a need to conserve and improve wildlife habitat on MJWMA.

FWP is coordinating this project with the Missoula Ranger District (Lolo National Forest, LNF), which is implementing similar treatments on its ongoing Marshall Woods Project on adjacent LNF land. Similar treatments are also being planned on adjacent City of Missoula land. The proposed treatments on the MJWMA would complement those projects by reducing hazardous fuels on a larger scale as well as increasing forage potential on deer and elk winter-range. If approved by the Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission, the work could begin as early as late-October 2020.

The EA may also be obtained by mail from Region 2 FWP, 3201 Spurgin Rd., Missoula 59804; by phoning 406-542-5540; by emailing shrose@mt.gov; or by viewing FWP's Internet website <http://fwp.mt.gov> ("News," then "Recent Public Notices"). Comments may be made online on the EA webpage or may be directed by mail or email to the addresses above. Comments must be received by FWP no later than August 25, 2020.

As part of the decision-making process under the Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA), I expect to issue the Decision Notice for this EA soon after the end of the comment period. The Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission has the final decision-making authority for FWP's forest habitat restoration projects, and tentatively the Commission would be asked to render its decision on this proposal at its regularly scheduled October 22, 2020 meeting.

Sincerely,

Randy Arnold
Regional Supervisor

RA/sr